

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 273

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Dickson County High School "Weapons of Mass Percussion" performance group for exemplary service to the people of Tennessee in seeking ways to actively help with the "Meth-Is-Death" program.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those organizations that through their extraordinary efforts have improved the quality of life for the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, the use of methamphetamines has emerged as an epidemic because of its risk of addiction for first-time users and its easily assessable home-made production through common household products bought in the local market; and

WHEREAS, the average methamphetamines abuser suffers major health defects, including dangerous weight loss, brain malfunction, and teeth corrosion, but the most frightening statistic is that habitual methamphetamine users have a life expectancy of only five years; and

WHEREAS, during the 2004-2005 school year, Mark Kinzer and Mark Ellis agreed to assist in coordinating a musical group to help in an anti-methamphetamine program named "Meth-Is-Death" to be delivered to 10,000 students across Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mark Kinzer has been the director of bands for Dickson County High School since 1995 and has achieved a high degree of respect and admiration from his students, peers, and school administrators for his selfless dedication to music education and his students; and

WHEREAS, Mark Ellis has served as an adjunct percussion instructor for Dickson County High School for five years; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Tidwell, a student leader, devised a name for the group of performing musicians, and they are known as the "Weapons of Mass Percussion"; and

WHEREAS, the “Weapons of Mass Percussion” are comprised of the following exceptional members from the Dickson County High School Band: Matt Tidwell, Ashley Strader, Erica Terlecki, A.J. Durham, Megan Holland, Katie Morrison, Joe Daniels, Rob Reeves, Sara Fuson, Jenna Smotherman, Quinn Rodriguez, Willie Goheen, and Justin Flicker; and

WHEREAS, these extraordinary individuals have shown selfless dedication to delivering an important life-saving, anti-drug message and epitomize the ideals of the determination, consummate professionalism, and dedication to the greater public good; and

WHEREAS, the music instructors and performers of the “Weapons of Mass Percussion” are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the “Volunteer State,” and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend leaders Mark Kinzer and Mark Ellis and the members of the Dickson County High School Band, “Weapons of Mass Percussion,” for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee by means of their participation in the “Meth-Is-Death” program and their efforts to educate the citizens of Tennessee as to the harmful and dangerous effects of methamphetamines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.